Research Paper

19th Century America

Life and Times

**Overview:**

Research and write a 2-4 page paper about person who played a significant political, social or cultural role in late 19th century American history. Each student will be *assigned* a different person to research, and the majority of the research and writing will be done independently. Your subject will be somebody who may not have made it into the history textbook, but was still influential.

An outline for the paper is attached. In class, we will cover the logistical elements of a research paper:

* Finding, evaluating and recording sources
* Keeping and making sense of notes
* Writing a rough draft
* Editing
* Completing a final version

Research papers are still a central part of the high school and college experience, so this assignment will be teaching practical learning skills as well as broadening your understanding of the content. The final grade of the paper will incorporate all aspects of the assignment, as shown on the attached checklist.

**Subjects:**

Andrew Carnegie Eugene V. Debs

John D. Rockefeller Samuel Gompers

William Randolph Hearst William Jennings Bryan

Jacob Riis Lincoln Steffens

J.P. Morgan Upton Sinclair

Cornelius Vanderbilt Jane Addams

Jay Gould Mary Harris ‘Mother’ Jones

Emma Goldman Booker T. Washington

W.E.B. Dubois Allan Pinkerton

William Marcy ‘Boss’ Tweed George Pullman

Gifford Pinchot Joseph Pulitzer

Louis Sullivan Leland Stanford

Susan B. Anthony Mark Twain

**Outline:**

Part 1 – Introduction

* Tells who the person is
* Can include statements about his/her life, background, or impact on their times

Part 2 – Biographical Information

* Early life and family background
* Education
* Personal information
* Adult life, career and family
* Death

Part 3 – Impact

* The era/setting in which the person became known
* How the person impacted the era – what changed as a result of this person’s influence
* Professional accomplishments/failures

Part 4 – Conclusion

* Statement of the person’s lasting status in history
* Relevance the person has to today’s world

**Logistics for drafts:**

* There should be a cover page that includes a title, your name & grade, the class, and the date
* The text should be double-spaced in a normal, 12 point font with no more than one-inch margins
* You may either write the text in one block or break it up with headings for each section
* There should be a separate Resources page, following the guidelines you are given
* Plastic covers are not necessary

**Schedule:**

Notes Check: Friday, December 13

Rough Draft: Thursday, January 9

Final Draft: Friday, January 17

**Grading Checklist:**

5 points - Appropriate notes (clear, accurate, some detail for each part of report)

5 points - Appropriate sources (acceptable, at least three sources, at least one non-

internet source)

5 points - Resources list (proper format)

50 points - Content (details all parts of the outline, accurate)

15 points - Writing mechanics (format, organization, sentence structure, spelling,

grammar)

5 points - Notes deadline (available December 13 or sooner)

5 points - Rough draft deadline (available January 9 or sooner)

10 points - Final draft deadline (available January 17 or sooner – two points deducted

for each day late)

Name: Topic:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item: | Points earned | Total Points | Notes: |
| Appropriate notes |  | 5 |  |
| Appropriate sources |  | 5 |  |
| Bibliography |  | 5 |  |
| Content |  | 50 |  |
| Writing mechanics |  | 15 |  |
| Notes deadline |  | 5 |  |
| Rough draft deadline |  | 5 |  |
| Final draft deadline |  | 10 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total: |  | 100 |  |

Comments: